



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Warner Springs Estates Fuel Break			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	T9S R2E Sec 36	<b>COUNTY</b>	SAN DIEGO	
	Warner Springs, Calif. 15' Quadrangle			
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)			
<b>CONTACT</b>	Shannon Johnson			
<b>ADDRESS</b>	CAL FIRE – Monte Vista Headquarters	<b>PHONE</b>	619-590-3114	
	Pre-fire/Resource Management Office			
	2249 Jamacha Rd.			
	El Cajon, CA 92019			

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The intent of this project is to create a fuel break by reducing hazardous fuels around the community of Warner Springs Estates, the Puerta La Cruz truck trail and the paved road leading to the community water tanks. The fuel break will provide a safe ingress/egress for residents and firefighters, a strategic area for fire suppression activities and protection of the community by reducing the fuel load around the infrastructures. The project area will be 100 to 150 feet of brush clearing around the infrastructures on the North side of the community, 100 to 150 feet from the cut bank on the northeast side of the community and 10 to 30 feet on both sides of the roads and will encompass approximately 15 acres. This project will tie into the fuel reduction project on Puerta La Cruz Truck Trail and support ongoing fuel work by the US Forest Service on adjacent Forest Service lands. This project will be implemented with CAL FIRE hand crews cutting brush and the chipping and/or pile burning. Brush will be cut to ground level, with approximately 50 percent of the brush stumps being grubbed out near infrastructures and the remaining roots will be left intact to maintain soil stability. CAL FIRE conservation crews will implement this project and resource management staff will monitor the work progress.

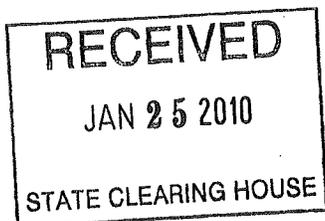
**EXEMPTION STATUS**

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 § 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

**REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

This project is consistent with the Class 4 Categorical Exemption described in 14 CCR Section 15304 pertaining to minor alterations to land and will not have a significant effect on the environment. The Department has conducted a limited environmental review to confirm that no exceptions exist at the project site, which would preclude the use of a Categorical Exemption. The possible exceptions that lead agencies must consider include a) sensitive location, b) cumulative impact, c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, d) impacts to scenic highways, e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource (14 CCR Section 15300.2). Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project, and furthermore concluded that no significant environmental impacts would occur. Archaeological resources will be flagged for avoidance, with only hand treatment activities permitted. The environmental review documentation is on file and available for review at the Pre-Fire/Resource Management office in El Cajon.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**



William E. Snyder, Deputy Director 1/20/10  
 Date